

## Extended-Response Writing Rubric Grades 3–4

SCORE POINT 4	
A Score Point 4 paper represents a solid performance. It fully accomplishes the task.	
Ideas and Content	
<p><b>Does the writing stay fully focused? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stay on the topic?</li> <li>• avoid rambling or repeating information?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing sample include many relevant ideas? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide ample information?</li> <li>• develop the topic with facts and details?</li> <li>• explore many facets of the topic?</li> </ul>	
Organization	
<p><b>Does the writing have clear order? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow a clear sequence with a beginning, a middle, and an end?</li> <li>• have a logical progression of main ideas and support?</li> <li>• connect ideas and events using words and phrases?</li> </ul>	
Style	
<p><b>Does the writing sample exhibit more than adequate word usage? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include dynamic words and use vivid or challenging words?</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the writing fluent and easy to read? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sound natural?</li> <li>• include varied sentence patterns? (Writing may include complex sentences.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the writing appropriate to task and purpose? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• display a sense of audience?</li> <li>• have a unique perspective? It may be original, lively, authoritative, and/or interesting (i.e., have voice).</li> </ul>	

SCORE POINT 3
<p>A Score Point 3 paper represents a good performance. It accomplishes the task, but generally needs to exhibit more development, better organization, or a more sophisticated writing style to receive a higher score.</p>
Ideas and Content
<p><b>Does the writing stay mostly focused? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mostly stay on the topic? (Writing may include minor tangents.)</li> <li>• include some rambling and/or repetition?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing include relevant ideas? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• present related information?</li> <li>• develop the topic with some facts and details?</li> </ul>
Organization
<p><b>Does the writing have order? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow a sequence, but possibly show a lapse (e.g., may start out with a clear beginning, but wander; may be missing a beginning, but have a conclusion)?</li> <li>• have a logical progression of main ideas and support? (Writing may have lapses.)</li> <li>• attempt to connect ideas and events using words and phrases?</li> </ul>
Style
<p><b>Does the writing exhibit adequate word usage? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• include mostly ordinary/common words (although some vivid or challenging words may be used)?</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the writing readable? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flow naturally most of the time (although it may be choppy or repetitive or may have run-on sentences/fragments in spots)?</li> <li>• generally lack varied sentence patterns (although it may include some complex sentences)?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing display some awareness of task and purpose? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• display some sense of audience?</li> <li>• demonstrate an attempt to develop a unique perspective—original, authoritative, and/or interesting (i.e., have some voice)?</li> </ul>

SCORE POINT 2
<p><b>A Score Point 2 paper represents a performance that minimally accomplishes the task. Some elements of development, organization, and writing style are weak.</b></p>
Ideas and Content
<p><b>Does the writing stay somewhat focused? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stay minimally focused on topic? (Writer may get distracted; may have a lapse in focus.)</li> <li>• ramble and/or repeat information?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing sample include some relevant ideas? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide minimal information and not begin to exhaust the possibilities?</li> <li>• provide minimal facts and details that don't fully develop the topic?</li> </ul>
Organization
<p><b>Does the writing have some order? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• show minimal evidence of logical sequence (e.g., may be missing a beginning, a middle, or an end)?</li> <li>• require the reader to fill in gaps in the sequence?</li> <li>• display minimal attempt to connect ideas and events using words and phrases?</li> </ul>
Style
<p><b>Does the writing sample exhibit minimal word usage? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contain ordinary/common words?</li> <li>• exhibit minimal evidence of word choice?</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the writing mostly readable?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing may be difficult to follow in some sections.</li> <li>• Writing may be hard to understand; the connection of ideas and information may be unclear.</li> <li>• Does the writing lack sentence variety?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing display minimal sense of task and purpose?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it display little sense of audience?</li> <li>• Writing may be repetitive, predictable, and/or dull (i.e., have minimal voice).</li> </ul>

SCORE POINT 1
<p>A Score Point 1 paper represents a performance that only partially accomplishes or fails to accomplish the task. Some responses may exhibit difficulty maintaining a focus. Others may be too brief to provide sufficient development of the topic or evidence of adequate organizational or writing style.</p>
Ideas and Content
<p><b>Does the writing exhibit little or no focus?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writer may get distracted, may drift away from topic, or may convey little meaning.</li> <li>• Topic may not be developed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing sample include few or no relevant ideas?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing may include unfinished/fragmented ideas.</li> <li>• Writing may include only one or two facts or details.</li> </ul>
Organization
<p><b>Does writing have little or no order? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• show little evidence of logical sequence (e.g., have no clear beginning, middle, or end)?</li> <li>• have some ideas that may not be related to each other?</li> <li>• display no attempt to connect ideas and events using words and phrases?</li> </ul>
Style
<p><b>Does the writing sample exhibit less than minimal word usage? Does it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contain a limited or simple vocabulary?</li> <li>• show no evidence of attention to word choice?</li> </ul> <p><b>Is the writing hard to read?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reader may have to fill in gaps or guess what the writer was trying to say.</li> <li>• Is sentence construction frequently incorrect?</li> </ul> <p><b>Does the writing display little sense of task and purpose?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it display little or no sense of audience?</li> <li>• Text may be flat, lifeless (i.e., have no voice).</li> </ul>